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Requester's Full Name: Jeff Gellner Examiner #: 78466 Date: 30 Apr. 2002
 Art Unit: 3643 Phone Number 305-2353 Serial Number: 09/930,911
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If more than one search is submitted, please prioritize searches in order of need.

Please provide a detailed statement of the search topic, and describe as specifically as possible the subject matter to be searched. Include the elected species or structures, keywords, synonyms, acronyms, and registry numbers, and combine with the concept or utility of the invention. Define any terms that may have a special meaning. Give examples or relevant citations, authors, etc, if known. Please attach a copy of the cover sheet, pertinent claims, and abstract.

Title of Invention: _____

Inventors (please provide full names): _____

Earliest Priority Filing Date: _____

For Sequence Searches Only Please include all pertinent information (parent, child, divisional, or issued patent numbers) along with the appropriate serial number.

Easy stake tomato braces
 set plant
 SHP
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L Number	Hits	Search Text	DB	Time Stamp
1	164	(D8/\$ or D11/\$).ccls. and (plant or tomato) and (cage or support)	USPAT; US-PGPUB	2002/04/30 11:05
2	1111	(211/\$ or 206/\$).ccls. and (plant or tomato) and (cage or support)	USPAT; US-PGPUB	2002/04/30 11:09
3	148	(D8/\$ or D11/\$).ccls. and (plant or tomato) and (cage or support)	USOCR	2002/04/30 11:09
4	537	(211/\$ or 206/\$).ccls. and (flower or tomato) and (cage or support)	USPAT; US-PGPUB	2002/04/30 11:19
5	265	(211/\$ or 206/\$).ccls. and (flower or tomato) and (cage or support)	USOCR	2002/04/30 11:28
7	1582	A01G009/12.ipc.	EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2002/04/30 11:29
8	120	A01G009/12.ipc. and (cage or tomato)	EPO; JPO; DERWENT	2002/04/30 11:30



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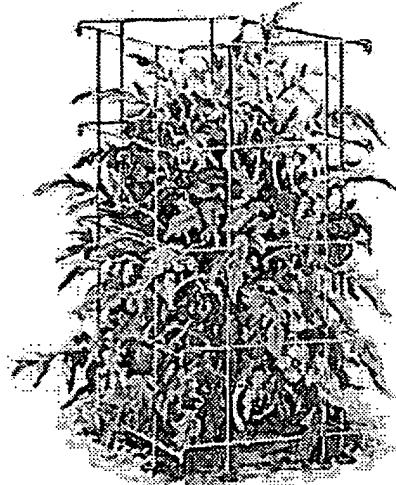
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These heavy-duty galvanized-steel cages are strong enough to support full-grown vines loaded with tomatoes. You can even stack one cage on top of another to support the tallest tomato plants.

Specifications at a Glance

14-3/8" x 14-3/8" x 32" H with 7" legs
 8-inch square openings
 Hinged panels fold flat
 Made in the USA

"Our Sweet 100 tomato plant grew over 12-1/2' tall and it was supported by three of your square tomato cages. My husband stacked them and wired them together."

Eileen Perry
 Clarksville, Tenn.

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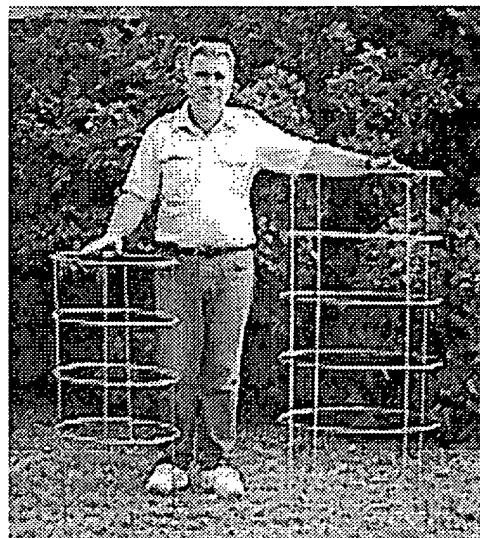
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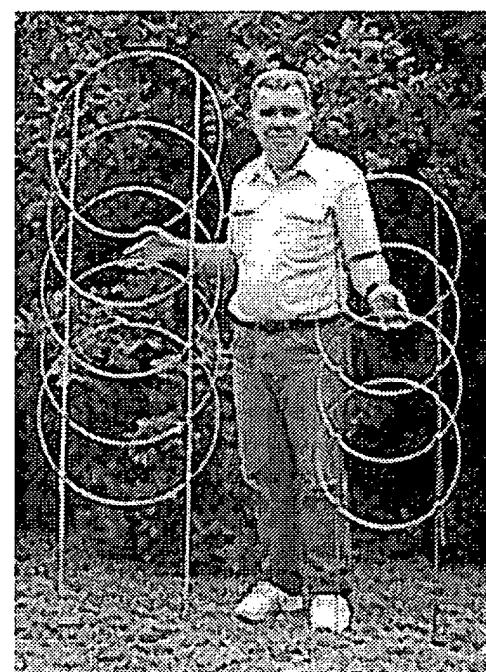
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18" Cage

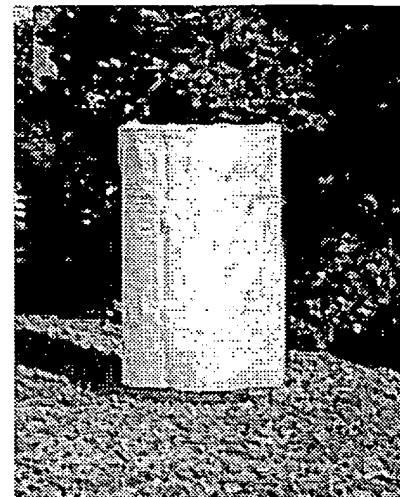
24" Cage



18" Cage, Two 24" Cages, Stacked

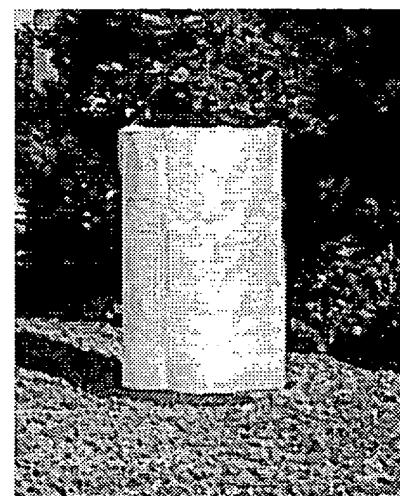


Cages folded flat for storage.



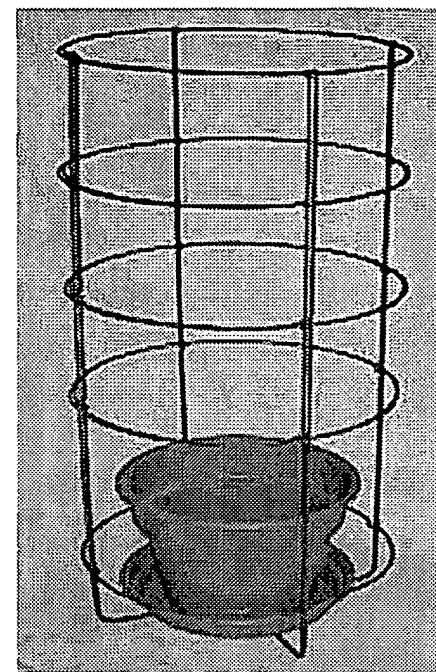
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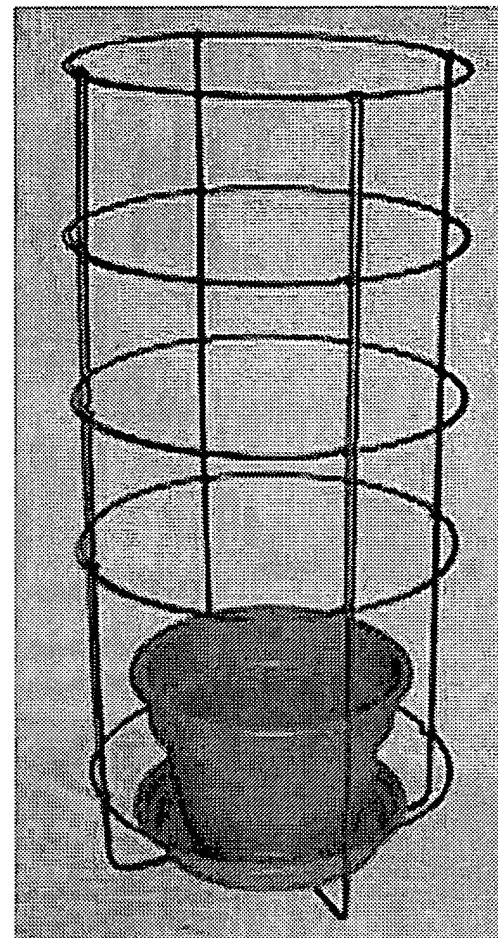
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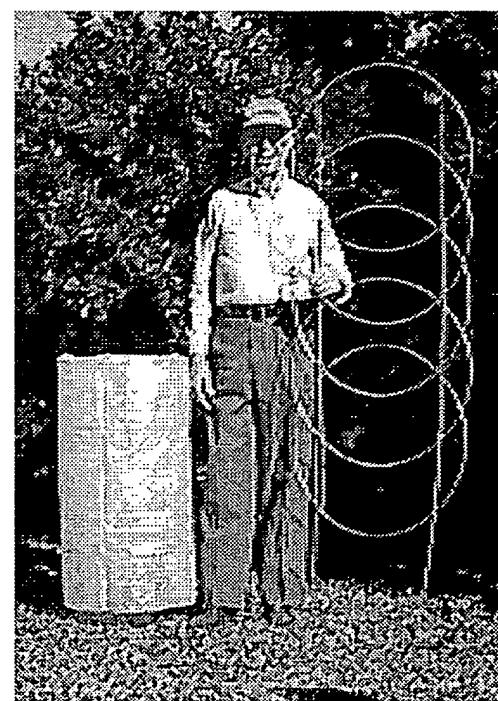
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YOUR SEARCH REQUEST IS:

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December 15, 2001 Saturday MAIN EDITION

SECTION: HOME & GARDEN; Pg. 2C

LENGTH: 350 words

HEADLINE: TOMATO CAGES MAKE GOOD CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

BYLINE: CAROL J.G. WARD, State (Columbia, S.C.).

BODY:

Plant supports and topiary shapes that we use in the garden during the summer can be the basis of Christmas decorations in December.

Accents are easy to make, even for those with little skill making floral arrangements or crafts, says Lee James, owner of Lee James Floral Designs in Orlando, Fla.: Some of his favorite projects include:

- * Taking a tomato stake and stringing holiday lights from the top to the ground at an angle until you have it looking like a tree of lights.
- * Covering animal-shaped topiary frames with strings of outdoor lights. Both the tomato stake and the topiary can be left free-standing or can be set into a clay pot for more stability.
- * Wrapping strings of blinking lights around grapevine balls or 10-inch diameter plastic-foam balls until the lights cover all the material.

The spiral tomato cage also makes a good Christmas tree. Turn it upside down and pull together the prongs that would normally anchor the cage in the garden so that you form a Christmas tree shape. Secure the prongs with wire or cable ties.

Spray paint the cage to coordinate with the theme you'll use. Then decorate the tree as desired.

Here are some ideas:

- * Metallic spiral. Use teal metallic ribbon with a wire edge. Start at the top of the tree and spiral ribbon down the tree. Use wide, clear package tape to connect sections of ribbon. Adjust spacing and secure with hot glue or pieces of clear package tape. Top with an angel.
- * Rudolph. Use pine garland to spiral around the tree. It's important to use garland with a fairly sturdy wire center so it will hold its shape. Secure garland to the cage with cable ties. Attach figures with wire or cable ties. You can use hot glue if you're not concerned about the condition of the figures.
- * Winter wonderland. Using hot glue or wire, attach wired bead garland vertically in the spaces between the cage's supports. Attach securely at each horizontal support. Using hot glue, attach white garland to the cage's horizontal supports. Then use wire, cable ties or hot glue to attach snowflakes, icicles and snowmen.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO

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April 9, 1994 Saturday ALL ZONES

SECTION: HOME & GARDEN; Pg. H02

HEADLINE: Tomato cages to make at home

BYLINE: Bill Sidnam, The Press-Enterprise

BODY:

Here are some gardening tidbits to consider when planning your spring garden.

Build your own tomato cage

Tomato cages are the ideal way to contain large, sprawling tomato plants. In years past, nurseries and garden centers used to sell large, sturdy cages constructed of heavy wire. Now, if they carry any cages at all, they are most likely to be small cages, suitable for only the smallest of tomato plants.

If you want large substantial tomato cages, you will probably have to make them yourself. By utilizing concrete reinforcing wire you can easily construct tall, sturdy, circular tomato cages that will last for many years and contain the largest of tomato plants.

This wire comes in rolls of 7-foot widths (the height of the cage you make). The wire has a 6-inch mesh, which makes for easy picking within the cage.

Each cage requires a 77-inch length of wire. Round the wire and crimp it together to form a cage. Remove the bottom cross-wires and push the vertical wires into the ground. Anchor each cage with 2-by-2 redwood stakes. The tomato plants may be spaced 3 feet apart between the centers of the plants, and the cages set over them.

Although you may think that 7-foot cages are a little high, and indeed you may need a stool to harvest the topmost fruit, they are very space-efficient as you are growing vertically rather than horizontally. With these cages, you never have to prune the vines.

Catalog for tomato fanciers

Home gardeners who like to grow different and unusual tomato varieties should send for a free catalog from Tomato Grower's Supply Co. It features more than 220 tomato varieties. In addition, it lists 76 pepper varieties. The address is P.O. Box 720, Fort Myers, Fla. 33902.

The Miracle-Gro \$100,000 tomato challenge

The Miracle-Gro fertilizer people are offering a \$100,000 prize to the first person to beat the current world record tomato - which weighs in at 7 pounds 12 ounces. For official rules and growing suggestions, send a self-addressed envelope (Miracle-Gro will provide return postage) to Miracle-Gro Tomato Challenge, Box 888, Port Washington, N.Y. 11050.

Valuable reference tool for gardeners

The fourth edition of "Gardening by Mail" by Barbara Barton (Houghton Mifflin, \$19.95) has just been published and should be available at local bookstores.

This publication is a must for the serious gardener. It lists more than 1,000 mail-order seed companies and nurseries in the United States and Canada. These companies are also indexed by plant specialty and location. The author's comments are included for each listing.

Bill Sidnam has been writing about vegetable gardening for The Press-Enterprise since 1979. His column appears Saturdays.



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Product Bulletin**Self-Watering Patio Garden and Tomato Success Kit**

Self-Waterin

[Self-Watering Patio Garden Assembly](#)
[Tomato Success Kit](#)

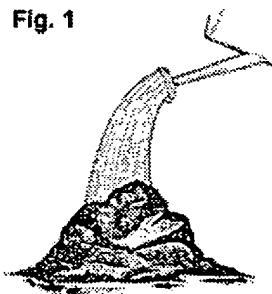
Self-Watering Patio Garden Assembly

With the Self-Watering Patio Garden, you can grow a wide variety of plants including tomatoes, peppers, a mix of greens and herbs or flowers. The 4-gallon reservoir can hold up to a week's worth of water.

These instructions are for the Self-Watering Patio Garden, Compact Self-Watering Patio Garden and Tomato Success Kit.

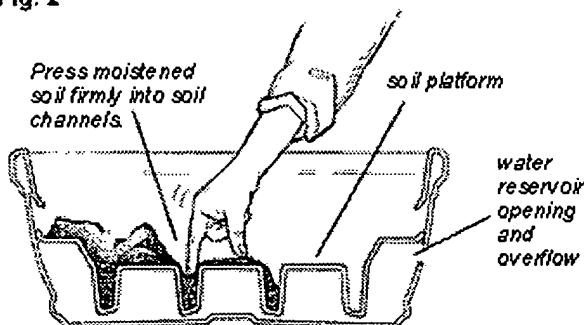
Step 1. In a separate container, moisten the soil or Transplant Mix until it's damp but not soggy.

Fig. 1



Step 2. Place the planter where you will be using it. (Once full, the planter can be very heavy to lift.) Pour a few inches of moistened soil into the planter and press it firmly into the channels of the platform (Fig. 2). This step is very important! The moistened soil will wick water from the reservoir to ensure your plants do not dry out.

Fig. 2



Step 3. Continue to fill planter with soil to within 1 to 2 inches of the top edge. Plant your flowers or vegetables. The larger Self-Watering Planter can hold up to two large plants (such as full-size tomatoes) or a number of smaller plants. Large plants will need to be spaced far apart and supported with a tomato cage or trellis.

Step 4. Fill the reservoir with water using the opening in the side of the planter. The opening also serves as an overflow to prevent the soil from becoming water-logged after heavy rains.

NOTE: If you live in a hot, dry climate or experience extended periods of dry weather, make sure to check the water reservoir on a regular basis (possibly daily) to keep it filled. If the soil dries out, refill the reservoir and water the soil from above to establish the wicking action.

Tomato Success Kit

The kit includes:

Self-Watering Patio Garden
 Tomato Cage
 Transplant Mix (60 qts)
 Tomato Booster Mulch
 All Purpose 5-5-5 Fertilizer

Step 1. In a separate container, moisten the soil or Transplant Mix until it's damp but not soggy.

Step 2. Place the planter where you will be using it. (Once full, the planter can be very heavy to lift.) Pour a few inches of moistened soil into the planter and press it firmly into the channels of the platform (Fig. 2). This step is very important! The moistened soil will wick water from the reservoir to ensure your plants do not dry out.

Step 3. Continue to fill planter with soil to within 1 to 2 inches of the top edge.

Step 4. Thoroughly mix 1 cup of fertilizer into the Transplant Mix.

Step 5. Place the Tomato Booster Mulch over the Transplant Mix and tuck the edges of the mulch between the soil and the planter (Figure 3).

When you are ready to plant, cut "X"s in the plastic for each plant. Note: Please read the instructions provided with your Tomato Booster Mulch for information on using the mulch for growing vegetables.

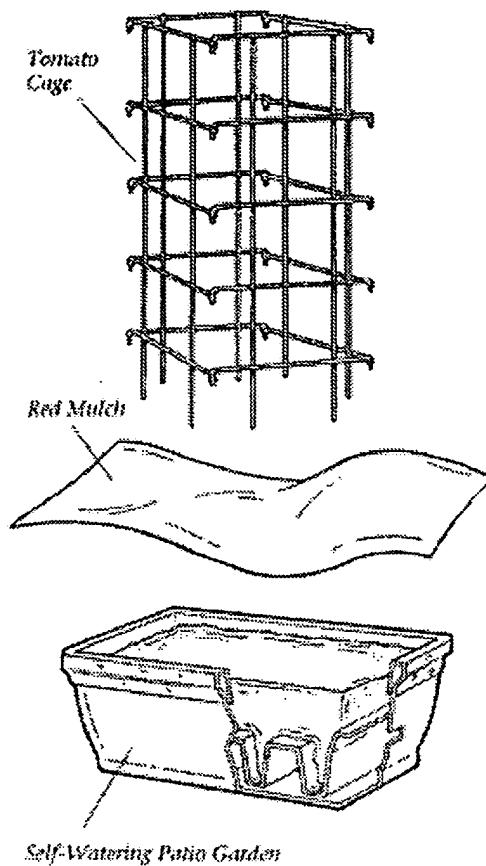
Step 6. After planting, place the tomato cage in the planter. Press the legs of the cage through the mulch and into the soil, deep enough so that the legs rest on the platform.

Step 7. If you are growing tomatoes, be sure to keep the plant stems off the ground. Train the stems to grow upward by using soft string or cushioned plant ties to prop them up on the tomato cage.

To concentrate the plant's energy on fruiting, pinch off the side shoots (suckers) that develop between the leaf stems and main stems of each plant.

If you have any questions, contact us at: info@gardeners.com

Fig. 3



Self-Watering Patio Garden

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